



Professional Speech-Language Services for You and Your Community

About the Profession

A speech-language pathologist (SLP) must have a minimum of a Masters degree in speech-language pathology from an accredited university, complete a nine-month Clinical Fellowship, and earn a Certificate of Clinical Competency from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and be licensed to practice in the state of Washington.

In addition, most SLPs hold specialized certifications and are members of the Washington Speech-Language-Hearing Association serving on several committees. The SLPs of WHMC evaluate, diagnose, and provide treatment for all forms of communication and feeding/swallowing disorders.

Programs for Adults

WHMC provides individualized adult programs aimed at correcting swallowing impairment, voice problems, and speech/language difficulties. In addition, WHMC therapy services offers the specialized Lee Silverman Voice Treatment program (LSVT-LOUD) in conjunction with the LSVT BIG program to enhance the speech skills of patients who have experienced a stroke or been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.

Programs for Children

WHMC is proud to offer aquatic therapy services for early intervention. The pool at WHMC was specifically designed for therapeutic purposes. The water temperature ranges from 91°-92° and offers the perfect relaxing environment to promote communication. WHMC also provides a summer speech-language program so that children may continue their therapy when school is not in session.

Early diagnosis and intervention is the key to avoiding developmental and academic delays. A child suspected of having a speech or language difficulty should undergo a professional evaluation.

Our professional speech-language pathologists work hand in hand with parents and teachers to help each child maximize their performance and achieve their speech and language goals.

If you have questions, need more information, or would like to bridge the summer treatment gap, please call our professionals at WHMC.

Communication Disorders

Communication disorders come in many forms and affect the whole family. Autism, Parkinson's disease, cancer of the head and neck, cerebral palsy, birth defects, down syndrome, stroke, and degenerative neurological diseases are just a few of the causes of impaired communication or feeding/swallowing difficulties.

The professional SLPs at WHMC provide the highest quality services for diagnosis and treating not just the patient, but also for counseling and support of the primary caregivers.

Vital Tools for Effective Communication

Speech and language skills are vital tools for communication. Communication involves the understanding and use of gestures, sounds, words, and sentences. An individual unable to communicate their thoughts and feelings may experience frustration.

**For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call our Therapy Services Department at
Whitman Hospital and Medical Center at (509) 397-5733
1200 W Fairview Street * Colfax, WA**